This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

<u>Listing of Claims</u>:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An image processing method for executing image processing of image data <u>generated by an image data generating apparatus</u>, said method comprising:

acquiring shooting information that indicates shooting conditions at the time of shooting, said <u>shooting</u> information describing a plurality of shooting condition parameters;

acquiring image processing control information that designates a plurality of picture quality adjustment parameters to be used during image processing <u>in an image processing apparatus</u>, said <u>image processing control</u> information describing a plurality of specifying parameters<u>, and said image processing control information designating image processing conditions to be used in said image processing apparatus, said image data generating apparatus being separate from said image processing apparatus</u>;

setting said plurality of picture quality adjustment parameters on the basis of said plurality of specifying parameters, while for any of said plurality of picture quality adjustment parameters that is not set by means of said specifying parameters, setting these said picture quality adjustment parameters on the basis of said shooting condition parameters; and

executing image processing of said image data using said set picture quality adjustment parameters.

Claim 2 (Original): An image processing method according to claim 1 wherein said plurality of specifying parameters include parameters that make up particular combinations of specifying parameters appropriate to particular shooting scenes, for designating image processing depending on the shooting scene;

and wherein said shooting condition parameters include scene-specific shooting condition parameters describing a particular shooting scene set at the time of shooting.

Claim 3 (Original): An image processing method according to claim 1 or 2 wherein image processing of said image data comprises:

analyzing said image data to extract characteristic parameters that indicate picture quality characteristics of image data;

acquiring a plurality of standard parameters predetermined for said plurality of picture quality adjustment parameters and serving as targets in picture quality adjustment; and

adjusting picture quality of said image data by eliminating or reducing any deviation between each value of said characteristic parameters and each value of said acquired standard picture quality parameters with reflecting said plurality of picture quality adjustment parameters.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): An image processing method for executing image processing of image data that has been generated by an image data generating apparatus and that has been associated with at least one set of information selected from shooting information indicating shooting conditions at the time of shooting, and image processing control information designating a plurality of picture quality adjustment parameters to be used during image processing in an image processing apparatus that is separate from said image data generating apparatus, said method comprising:

acquiring said image data;

searching, from among the image processing conditions control information associated with said image data, for a scene-specific shooting image processing condition parameter depending on a particular shooting scene, the image processing control information designating image processing conditions to be used in said image processing apparatus;

in the event that a said said scene-specific shooting image processing condition parameter is not found, searching, from among the shooting conditions associated with said image data, for a shooting scene condition;

searching, from among the image processing conditions control information associated with said image data, for an arbitrary image processing designating condition that arbitrarily designates an image processing condition;

in the event that a said said arbitrary image processing designating condition is not found, searching, from among the shooting conditions associated with said image data, for an arbitrarily set shooting condition; and

acquiring each said searched for condition, and executing image processing of said image data in said image processing apparatus using said acquired conditions.

Claim 5 (Original): An image processing method according to claim 4 wherein image processing of said image data comprises:

analyzing said image data to extract characteristic parameters that indicate picture quality characteristics of image data;

acquiring a plurality of standard parameters serving as targets in picture quality adjustment; and

adjusting picture quality of said image data by eliminating or reducing any deviation between each value of said characteristic parameters and each value of said acquired standard picture quality parameters with reflecting said plurality acquired.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): An image processing method for executing image processing of image data that has <u>been generated by an image data generating apparatus and that has</u> been associated with at least one set of information selected from shooting information that indicates shooting conditions at the time of shooting, and image processing control information that designates a plurality of picture quality adjustment parameters to be used during image processing <u>in an image processing apparatus that is separate from said image data generating apparatus</u>, said method comprising:

acquiring shooting scene information from said shooting conditions;

defining scene correction information on the basis of said acquired shooting scene information;

searching among said image processing ~~conditions~~ <u>control information</u> for a scene-specific image processing condition that designates an image processing condition on a scene-specific basis<u>, said image processing control information designating image processing conditions to be used in said image processing apparatus</u>;

in the event that said scene-specific image processing condition is found among said image processing ~~conditions~~ <u>control information</u>, replacing said scene correction information with said scene-specific image processing condition;

acquiring arbitrary correction information from said shooting conditions;

defining image arbitrary correction information on the basis of the acquired said arbitrary correction information;

searching among said image processing ~~conditions~~ <u>control information</u> for an arbitrary image processing condition designating an arbitrarily selected image processing condition;

in the event that ~~a said~~ <u>said</u> arbitrary image processing condition is found among said image processing ~~conditions~~ <u>control information</u>, replacing said image arbitrary correction information with said arbitrary image processing condition; and

executing image processing of said image data <u>in said image processing apparatus</u> on the basis of said scene correction condition and said image arbitrary correction information.

Claim 7 (Original): An image processing method according to claim 6 wherein image processing of said image data comprises:

analyzing said image data to extract characteristic parameters that indicate picture quality characteristics of image data;

acquiring a plurality of standard parameters serving as targets in picture quality adjustment; and

adjusting picture quality of said image data by eliminating or reducing any deviation between each value of said characteristic parameters and each value of said acquired standard picture quality parameters with reflecting said scene correction condition and said image arbitrary correction information.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): An image processing method for executing image processing of image data that has been associated with at least one set of information selected from shooting information that indicates shooting conditions at the time of shooting, and image processing control information that designates a plurality of picture quality adjustment parameters to be used during image processing, said image data being associated with the at least one set of information selected from said shooting information and said image processing control information by an image data generating apparatus, said method comprising:

selecting either said shooting information or said image processing control information;

acquiring as information either said selected shooting information or said image processing control information; and

executing picture quality adjustment processing of said image data in an image processing apparatus using said acquired information, said image data generating apparatus and said image processing apparatus being separate bodies.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): An image processing apparatus for executing image processing of image data <u>generated by an image data generating apparatus that is separate from said image processing apparatus</u>, said <u>image processing</u> apparatus comprising:

shooting information acquisition logic for acquiring shooting information that indicates shooting conditions at the time of shooting, said <u>shooting</u> information describing a plurality of shooting condition parameters;

image processing control information acquisition logic for acquiring image processing control information that designates a plurality of picture quality adjustment parameters to be used during image processing, said <u>image processing control</u> information describing a plurality of specifying parameters<u>, and said image processing control information designating image processing conditions to be used in said image processing apparatus</u>;

picture quality adjustment parameter setting logic for setting said plurality of picture quality adjustment parameters on the basis of said plurality of specifying parameters, while for any of said plurality of picture quality adjustment parameters that is not set by means of said specifying parameters, setting these said picture quality adjustment parameters on the basis of said shooting condition parameters; and

image processing logic for executing image processing of said image data using said set picture quality adjustment parameters.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): An image processing apparatus for executing image processing of image data that has been generated by an image data generating apparatus and that has been associated with at least one set of information selected from shooting information indicating shooting conditions at the time of shooting, and image processing control information designating a plurality of picture quality adjustment parameters to be used during image processing, said image processing control information designating image processing conditions to be used in said image processing apparatus, said image data generating apparatus being separate from said image processing apparatus, said image processing apparatus comprising:

image data acquisition logic for acquiring said image data;

first search logic for searching, from among the image processing conditions associated with said image data, for a scene-specific shooting image processing condition parameter depending on a particular shooting scene, and in the event that a said said scene-specific shooting image processing condition parameter is not found, searching, from among the shooting conditions associated with said image data, for a shooting scene condition;

second search logic for searching, from among the image processing conditions associated with said image data, for an arbitrary image processing designating condition that arbitrarily designates an image processing condition, and in the event that a said arbitrary image processing designating condition is not found, searching, from among the shooting conditions associated with said image data, for an arbitrarily set shooting condition; and

image processing logic for executing image processing of said image data using conditions acquired by each said search logic.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): An image processing apparatus for executing image processing of image data that has <u>been generated by an image data generating apparatus and that has</u> been associated with at least one set of information selected from shooting information that indicates shooting conditions at the time of shooting, and image processing control information that designates a plurality of picture quality adjustment parameters to be used during image processing<u>, said image processing control information designating image processing conditions to be used in said image processing apparatus, said image data generating apparatus being separate from said image processing apparatus</u>, said <u>image processing</u> apparatus comprising:

     scene information acquisition logic for acquiring shooting scene information from said shooting conditions, and defining scene correction information;

     first search logic for searching among said image processing conditions for a scene-specific image processing condition that designates an image processing condition on a scene-specific basis;

     scene correction information update logic that, in the event that a~~said~~ <u>said</u> scene-specific image processing condition is found among said image processing conditions, replaces said scene correction information with said scene-specific image processing condition;

     arbitrary correction information acquisition logic for acquiring arbitrary correction information from said shooting conditions, and defining image arbitrary correction information;

     second search logic for searching among said image processing conditions for an arbitrary image processing condition designating an arbitrarily selected image processing condition;

     image arbitrary correction information update logic that, in the event that a~~said~~ <u>said</u> arbitrary image processing condition is found among said image processing conditions, replaces said image arbitrary correction information with said arbitrary image processing condition; and

     picture quality adjustment logic for executing image processing of said image data on the basis of said scene correction condition and said image arbitrary correction information.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): An image processing apparatus for executing image processing of image data that has been associated with at least one set of information selected from shooting information that indicates shooting conditions at the time of shooting, and image processing control information that designates a plurality of picture quality adjustment parameters to be used during image processing, said image data being associated with the at least one set of information selected from said shooting information and said image processing control information by an image data generating apparatus, said image processing apparatus comprising:

selection logic for selecting either said shooting information or said image processing control information;

information acquisition logic for acquiring as information either said selected shooting information or said image processing control information; and

image processing logic for executing picture quality adjustment processing of said image data in said image processing apparatus using said acquired information, said image data generating apparatus and said image processing apparatus being separate bodies.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A computer program product including a computer-readable storage medium having stored thereon computer-executable image processing program instructions for executing image processing of image data generated by an image data generating apparatus, said computer program product comprising:

a program instruction for acquiring shooting information that indicates shooting conditions at the time of shooting, said shooting information describing a plurality of shooting condition parameters;

a program instruction for acquiring image processing control information that designates a plurality of picture quality adjustment parameters to be used during image processing in an image processing apparatus, said image processing control information describing a plurality of specifying parameters, and said image processing control information designating image processing conditions to be used in said image processing apparatus, said image data generating apparatus being separate from said image processing apparatus;

a program instruction for setting said plurality of picture quality adjustment parameters on the basis of said plurality of specifying parameters, while for any of said plurality of picture quality adjustment parameters that is not set by means of said specifying

parameters, setting these said picture quality adjustment parameters on the basis of said shooting condition parameters; and

a program instruction for executing image processing of said image data using said set picture quality adjustment parameters.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A computer program product including a computer-readable storage medium having stored thereon computer-executable image processing program instructions for executing image processing of image data that has been generated by an image data generating apparatus and that has been associated with at least one set of information selected from shooting information that indicates shooting conditions at the time of shooting, and image processing control information that designates a plurality of picture quality adjustment parameters to be used during image processing in an image processing apparatus that is separate from said image data generating apparatus, said computer program product comprising:

a program instruction for acquiring said image data;

a program instruction for searching, from among the image processing conditions control information associated with said image data, for a scene-specific shooting image processing condition parameter depending on a particular shooting scene, the image processing control information designating image processing conditions to be used in said image processing apparatus;

a program instruction that, in the event that a said said scene-specific shooting image processing condition parameter is not found, searches, from among the shooting conditions associated with said image data, for a shooting scene condition;

a program instruction for searching, from among the image processing conditions associated with said image data, for an arbitrary image processing designating condition that arbitrarily designates an image processing condition;

a program instruction that, in the event that a said said arbitrary image processing designating condition is not found, searches, from among the shooting conditions associated with said image data, for an arbitrarily set shooting condition; and

a program instruction for acquiring each said searched for condition, and executing image processing of said image data in said image processing apparatus using said acquired conditions.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A computer program product <u>including a computer-readable storage medium</u> having stored thereon <u>computer-executable</u> image processing program instructions for executing image processing of image data that has <u>been generated by an image data generating apparatus and that has</u> been associated with at least one set of information selected from shooting information that indicates shooting conditions at the time of shooting, and image processing control information that designates a plurality of picture quality adjustment parameters to be used during image processing <u>in an image processing apparatus that is separate from said image data generating apparatus</u>, said computer program product comprising:

a program instruction for acquiring shooting scene information from said shooting conditions;

a program instruction for defining scene correction information on the basis of said acquired shooting scene information;

a program instruction for searching among said image processing ~~conditions~~ <u>control information</u> for a scene-specific image processing condition that designates an image processing condition on a scene-specific basis<u>, said image processing control information designating image processing conditions to be used in said image processing apparatus</u>;

a program instruction that, in the event that said scene-specific image processing condition is found among said image processing ~~conditions~~ <u>control information</u>, replaces said scene correction information with said scene-specific image processing condition;

a program instruction for acquiring arbitrary correction information from said shooting conditions;

a program instruction for defining image arbitrary correction information on the basis of the acquired said arbitrary correction information;

a program instruction for searching among said image processing ~~conditions~~ <u>control information</u> for an arbitrary image processing condition designating an arbitrarily selected image processing condition;

a program instruction that, in the event that ~~a said~~ <u>said</u> arbitrary image processing condition is found among said image processing ~~conditions~~ <u>control information</u>, replaces said image arbitrary correction information with said arbitrary image processing condition; and

a program instruction for executing image processing of said image data <u>in said image processing apparatus</u> on the basis of said scene correction condition and said image arbitrary correction information.